

'Ready First' Brigade artillerymen adapting to new missions

Cpl. Benjamin Cossel, 122nd MPAD

BAGHDAD, Iraq – Force protection, information operations and information delivery are not the sort of tasks one typically thinks of when considering the mission of a Brigade Fire Support Element.

Just as many Soldiers have done during Operation Iraqi Freedom, the Soldiers of the 1st Brigade, 1st Armored Division FSE have "adjusted fire" and learned several new missions.

Calling for fire support from artillery, naval gunfire, and close air support comprise the doctrinal missions for a FSE. However, with Operation Iraqi Freedom's major combat operations completed, the need for their call-for-fire skills has diminished.

The team now finds itself engaged in non-lethal missions which include delivering "*Baghdad Now*," a community newspaper produced for the residents of Baghdad, working with the Division Public Affairs Section to determine public reaction to the media and assisting reporters. They go into the community with Civil Affairs teams, analyze data with Counter Intelligence specialists to determine a community's mood and provide force protection for the forward operating base and for convoys.

"We've added a whole new level to our arsenal," said Sgt. 1st Class Darrin M. Domko, brigade fire support sergeant. Instead of their traditional weapons, these artillerymen use word processors and fight on the information battlefield.

"Now we can write articles for the local papers," Domko said.

With 150 non-lethal missions and 253 hours of road time logged since their arrival in May 2003, the Soldiers of the "Ready First" Brigade FSE have adapted well to their new missions but the transition hasn't always been easy, according to some FSE Soldiers.

"It's definitely been a total change in how we not only work but how we think about our mission," said Sgt. Thomas Grigsby, fire support sergeant.

Without a Field Manual or official training programs to provide guidance, the team adapted as their varied missions required, integrating with unit and staff sections they've never worked with before.

Information Operations doctrine that has worked well in other theatres has proven its worth only as a basic template in Iraq. The section had taken the doctrine and adapted it for its missions.

While the FSE Soldiers' missions are non-lethal in intent, the section has faced its share of dangerous moments.

Each Soldier has his tales to tell. One common story they share involves the night a rocket-propelled grenade that struck within inches of the section's two HMMWVs.

"We were out making our weekly newspaper deliveries in front of the Aadhamiya Mosque," said Staff Sgt. Corey Hinkle, assistant brigade fire support sergeant. "Everything seemed normal. We're talking to the residents in the area when all of a sudden they all begin leaving and it gets very quiet."

Hinkle said the Soldiers were trying to understand their



Sp. Dennis Swank, fire support specialist, Fire Support Element, 1st Brigade Combat Team, Task Force 1st Armored Division, provides security during a recent mission in downtown Baghdad.

situation when "all of a sudden we hear a boom and turn towards the mosque to see a rocket coming straight for us."

Time seemed to slow down and a line of fire passed between Hinkle's and the team's second vehicle.

"A foot to the left, a foot to the right and both of us would have been in a world of hurt," he said.

With a year of on-the-job training, the Soldiers of the FSE have risen to the occasion and adapted to their new role and missions, said Domko. Nothing in their previous training or unit exercises completed before deploying to Operation Iraqi Freedom formally prepared them for the mission and assignments they now face.

"But, this team has pulled together and really done an outstanding job," he said.

The Old Ironsides Report March 28, 2004

NEWS...

U.S. Marine Killed in Iraqi Firefight

BAGHDAD, Iraq (AP) - A U.S. Marine and an ABC freelance cameraman were killed during a bitter, hours-long firefight between American troops and Iraqi insurgents in the city of Fallujah, while 18 people died in violence elsewhere across Iraq. In the center of the capital Saturday, a bomb exploded on a street as a convoy of sport utility vehicles passed, wounding five Iraqis. It was not clear who was in the cars. U.S. troops sealed off the area after the blast.

White House Trying to Explain Rice Policy

WASHINGTON (AP) - Condoleezza Rice says the Bush administration has a good story to tell about fighting terrorism and she's pouring it out in television appearances, interviews and newspaper articles. The one place she won't talk is in public, under oath, before the independent commission investigating the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks.

Pakistan Says al-Qaida Leader Hurt, Hiding

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan (AP) - Pakistani forces have seriously wounded a senior al-Qaida leader, a military spokesman said Saturday, vowing that the country will not abandon its war on terrorism despite the most recent taped threat by Osama bin Laden's right-hand man. Recently gathered intelligence indicated that al-Qaida commander Tahir Yuldash has been badly wounded and is in hiding somewhere in western Pakistan. He admitted, though, Pakistani forces are not close to capturing him.

Half-Million Taiwanese Protest Election

TAIPEI, Taiwan (AP) - A half million people swarmed into Taiwan's capital on Saturday to protest the disputed presidential election, while China hinted that the turmoil might provide a reason for it to take control of the island. Demonstrators wore yellow rain ponchos in the cold drizzle and waved Taiwanese flags as they filled the wide boulevard outside the Presidential Office. They cheered and listened to fiery speeches that alleged President Chen Shui-bian rigged the March 20 vote.

Thought for the day...

Communication

While still a lad, Benjamin Franklin said to his mother, "I have imbibed an acephalous molluscous." Supposing that he had swallowed something poisonous, his mother forced him to take a large dose of an emetic. When he got over the effects of the medicine he told her, "I had eaten nothing but an oyster." Upon learning this, his mother whipped him for deceiving her. Then and there Benjamin vowed never again to use 'big' words when 'little' words would do.

In other news...

CBS to Launch Search for Next Martha Stewart

By Steve Gorman, Reuters

LOS ANGELES (Reuters) - CBS is planning to launch a prime-time search for the next Martha Stewart even as the fallen doyenne of domesticity may be headed for less genteel surroundings in a federal penitentiary.

Seizing on the growing popularity of the TV talent-search genre, CBS has teamed up with LMNO Productions to create a 10-episode reality show that sets out to fill the shoes of the lifestyle trendsetter who drew millions of fans through her magazines, books, TV shows and home products.

A CBS spokeswoman said on Friday that the Viacom Inc.-owned network had ordered production of the as-yet-untitled series but said no air date has been set. LMNO's previous credits include Fox network's recent dwarf-dating contest "The Littlest Groom" and "Celebrity Boot Camp."

The new show will feature 12 individuals living together, probably in a New England-style farmhouse, competing in the domestic arts of interior decorating, cooking and party-planning as producers throw them curves to test their imagination and grace under pressure.

One challenge might be to prepare a large dinner party after power is cut off to the house, executive producer Eric Schotz told Reuters.

"If you're really going to be a domestic diva, an icon, you have to have the ability to mold, adapt and adjust," he said. "That's what makes you great. I mean, anyone can follow a recipe."

The winning contestant must also be more than a gifted master of home and hearth, able to create the perfect salad from scratch, carve elegant ice sculptures or stitch added wear into second-hand curtains.

"Our job is to find somebody who can communicate to people, who has tremendous creativity and unbelievable skill, and can disseminate that to a broad-based audience," Schotz said.

Casting, which is to begin immediately, will be open to both men and women, but producers have not decided whether any men will necessarily make the cut, a spokesman for LMNO said.

Speculation about who might emerge to replace Stewart, 62, as America's foremost authority on gracious living began almost as soon as she was convicted earlier this month of lying to investigators about a suspicious stock sale. Stewart is to be sentenced June 17, and legal experts believe she is likely to receive a prison term of 10 months to two years.

NBC's "Today" show launched its own "Domestic Diva Contest" earlier this month, urging viewers who consider themselves homemaking wunderkinds to send in videotapes of themselves showing off their skills. A winner is to be announced April 7.

The grand prize has yet to be decided for the CBS show, but Schotz said it would involve something to advance the winner's ambitions.

Today in History...

March 28, 1979: NUCLEAR ACCIDENT AT THREE MILE ISLAND

(HISTORYCHANNEL.COM) At 4 a.m. on March 28, 1979, the worst accident in the history of the U.S. nuclear power industry begins when a pressure valve in the Unit-2 reactor at Three Mile Island fails to close. Cooling water, contaminated with radiation, drained from the open valve into adjoining buildings, and the core began to dangerously overheat.

The Three Mile Island nuclear power plant was built in 1974 on a sandbar on Pennsylvania's Susquehanna River, just 10 miles downstream from the state capitol in Harrisburg. In 1978, a second state-of-the-art reactor began operating on Three Mile Island, which was lauded for generating affordable and reliable energy in a time of energy crises.

After the cooling water began to drain out of the broken pressure valve on the morning of March 28, 1979, emergency cooling pumps automatically went into operation. Left alone, these safety devices would have prevented the development of a larger crisis. However, human operators in the control room misread confusing and contradictory readings and shut off the emergency water system. The reactor was also shut down, but residual heat from the fission process was still being released. By early morning, the core had heated to over 4,000 degrees, just 1,000 degrees short of meltdown. In the meltdown scenario, the core melts, and deadly radiation drifts across the countryside, fatally sickening a potentially great number of people.

As the plant operators struggled to understand what had happened, the contaminated water was releasing radioactive gases throughout the plant. The radiation levels, though not immediately life-threatening, were dangerous, and the core cooked further as the contaminated water was contained and precautions were taken to protect the operators. Shortly after 8 a.m., word of the accident leaked to the outside world. The plant's parent company, Metropolitan Edison, downplayed the crisis and claimed that no radiation had been detected off plant grounds, but the same day inspectors detected slightly increased levels of radiation nearby as a result of the contaminated water leak. Pennsylvania Governor Dick Thornburgh considered calling an evacuation.

Finally, at about 8 p.m., plant operators realized they needed to get water moving through the core again and restarted the pumps. The temperature began to drop, and pressure in the reactor was reduced. The reactor had come within less than an hour of a complete meltdown. More than half the core was destroyed or molten, but it had not broken its protective shell, and no radiation was escaping. The crisis was apparently over.

Two days later, however, on March 30, a bubble of highly flammable hydrogen gas was discovered within the reactor building. The bubble of gas was created two days before when exposed core materials reacted with super-heated steam. On March 28, some of this gas had exploded, releasing a small amount of radiation into the atmosphere. At that time, plant operators had not registered the explosion, which sounded like a ventilation door closing. After the radiation leak was discovered on March 30, residents were advised to stay indoors. Experts were uncertain if the hydrogen bubble would create further meltdown or possibly a giant explosion, and as a precaution Governor Thornburgh advised "pregnant women and pre-school age children to leave the area within a five-mile radius of the Three Mile Island facility until further notice." This led to the panic the governor had hoped to avoid; within days, more than 100,000 people had fled surrounding towns.

On April 1, President Jimmy Carter arrived at Three Mile Island to inspect the plant. Carter, a trained nuclear engineer, had helped dismantle a damaged Canadian nuclear reactor while serving in the U.S. Navy. His visit achieved its aim of calming local residents and the nation. That afternoon, experts agreed that the hydrogen bubble was not in danger of exploding. Slowly, the hydrogen was bled from the system as the reactor cooled.

At the height of the crisis, plant workers were exposed to unhealthy levels of radiation, but no one outside Three Mile Island had their health adversely affected by the accident. Nonetheless, the incident greatly eroded the public's faith in nuclear power. The unharmed Unit-1 reactor at Three Mile Island, which was shut down during the crisis, did not resume operation until 1985. Cleanup continued on Unit-2 until 1990, but it was too damaged to be rendered usable again. In the more than two decades since the accident at Three Mile Island, not a single new nuclear power plant has been ordered in the United States.



1ST ARMORED DIVISION RETENTION

OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM REDEPLOYMENT SUPPORT



TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE TAX FREE LUMP SUM DEPLOYMENT BONUS

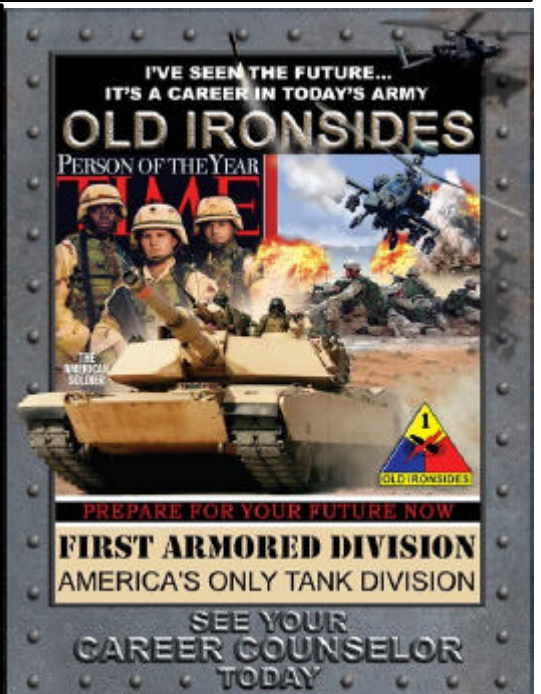
When the wheels go up heading back to Germany the money goes away

EXAMPLES OF BONUS PAYMENTS:

	3YR REUP	4YR REUP	5YR REUP	6YR REUP
SPC W/3 YEARS	\$4317.00	\$6650.00	\$8547.00	\$10,000.00
SGT W/6 YEARS	\$2663.00	\$7457.00	\$9588.00	\$10,000.00
SSG W/8 YEARS	\$3145.00	\$7925.00	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00

*BONUS PAYMENTS VARY BASED UPON THE NUMBER OF YEARS REENLISTED FOR AND THE NUMBER OF MONTHS PRIOR TO ORIGINAL ETS SOLDIER REENLISTS. THESE FIGURES ARE BASED UPON A SOLDIER REENLISTING 6 MONTHS PRIOR TO ORIGINAL ETS DATE. SEE YOUR CAREER COUNSELOR TO FIND OUT HOW MUCH MONEY YOU ARE ENTITLED TO.

"STAY STRONG, STAY PROUD, STAY 1AD"



The Old Ironsides Report

March 28, 2004

myafn.net TV SCHEDULES: SUNDAY, MARCH 28, 2004				As of: Saturday, March 27, 2004 8:05:53 PM		
Start Time	SPORTS	ATLANTIC	SPECTRUM	PACIFIC	NEWS	Start Time
00:00			THE DIVISION (TVPG): - MOTHERS & DAUGHTERS	ESPNEWS	FOX NEWS LIVE	00:00
00:30	ESPNEWS	MEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL - NCAA CHAMPIONSHIP - ELITE 8: ALABAMA VS UCONN; ST. JOSEPH'S VS OKLAHOMA STATE		MEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL - NCAA CHAMPIONSHIP - ELITE 8: ALABAMA VS UCONN; ST. JOSEPH'S VS OKLAHOMA STATE		00:30
01:00	WOMEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL - NCAA CHAMPIONSHIP - SWEET 16: NOTRE DAME VS PENN STATE		AMERICA'S SWEETHEARTS		FOX NEWS LIVE	01:00
02:00					HEADLINE NEWS	02:00
02:30					MCLAUGHLIN GROUP	02:30
03:00	NASCAR BUSCH SERIES - SHARPIE PROFESSIONAL 250		SWAMP CRITTERS OF THE LOST LAGOON (TVG): - BALLAD OF COUNTRY WESTON		CAPITAL GANG	03:00
03:30			HARVEST WITH GREG LAURIE - DISQUALIFIED IN THE RACE OF LIFE--SAUL			03:30
04:00			MUSIC AND THE SPOKEN WORD		WASHINGTON WEEK IN REVIEW	04:00
04:30			REAL VIDEOS (TVG): - TRIN-I-TE 5:7		HEADLINE NEWS	04:30
05:00		SATURDAY NIGHT LIVE (03'-04') (TV14): - JESSICA SIMPSON AND NICK LACHEY/G-UNIT	THE SIMPSONS (TVPG): - PRAY ANYTHING	ESPNEWS	PEOPLE IN THE NEWS	05:00
05:30			MALCOLM IN THE MIDDLE (TVPG):	ESPNEWS		05:30
06:00	ESPNEWS		EVERYBODY LOVES RAYMOND (TVPG): - THE KICKER	WISHBONE (TVY): - BARK TO THE FUTURE	CNN SATURDAY NIGHT	06:00
06:30	ESPNEWS	HOUR OF POWER - GOD'S GLAD SUPPRISES	THE KING OF QUEENS (TVPG): - INNER TUBE	SESAME STREET SPECIALS (TVY): - KID'S FAVORITE SONGS		06:30
07:00	WOMEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL - NCAA CHAMPIONSHIP - SWEET 16: GEORGIA VS PURDUE	CELEBRATION OF VICTORY - FROM THERE ...	JOAN OF ARCADIA (TVPG): - PILOT	CINDERELLA II: DREAMS COME TRUE	DATELINE INTERNATIONAL	07:00
07:30		CORAL RIDGE HOUR - EQUIPPING THE SAINTS				07:30
08:00		CHRISTOPHER CLOSEUP - THE RYAN PROJECT	AMERICAN IDOL (TVG):		LARRY KING LIVE	08:00
08:30		CAFE VIDEO - I SAW HEAVEN		SPONGEBOB SQUAREPANTS (TVY): - HOOKY / MERMAID MAN AND BARNACLE BOY II		08:30
09:00		WISHBONE (TVY): - BARK TO THE FUTURE		MOTORWEEK	AT LARGE WITH GERALDO RIVERA	09:00
09:30	ESPNEWS	SESAME STREET SPECIALS (TVY): - KID'S FAVORITE SONGS		EBERT & ROEPER AT THE MOVIES (TVPG):		09:30
10:00	SPORTSCENTER	CINDERELLA II: DREAMS COME TRUE	AMERICAN IDOL (TVG):	WWE SMACKDOWN! (TV14):	BELTWAY BOYS	10:00
10:30			THE TWILIGHT ZONE (TVPG): - THE OBSOLETE MAN		FOX NEWS WATCH	10:30
11:00	PGA TOUR - THE PLAYERS CHAMPIONSHIP: THIRD ROUND		SWAMP CRITTERS OF THE LOST LAGOON (TVG): - BALLAD OF COUNTRY WESTON	STARGATE SG-1 (TVPG): - SHADOW PLAY	HEADLINE NEWS	11:00
11:30		SPONGEBOB SQUAREPANTS (TVY): - HOOKY / MERMAID MAN AND BARNACLE BOY II	HARVEST WITH GREG LAURIE - DISQUALIFIED IN THE RACE OF LIFE--SAUL		AMERICA'S BLACK FORUM	11:30
12:00		MOTORWEEK	MUSIC AND THE SPOKEN WORD	AFTRS NEWSCENTER STUDIO 5 - INTERVIEW WITH SECDEF	THE CHRIS MATTHEWS SHOW	12:00
12:30		EBERT & ROEPER AT THE MOVIES (TVPG):	REAL VIDEOS (TVG): - TRIN-I-TE 5:7	ESPNEWS	NAVY/MARINE CORPS NEWS	12:30
13:00		AFTRS NEWSCENTER STUDIO 5 - INTERVIEW WITH SECDEF	THE SIMPSONS (TVPG): - PRAY ANYTHING	JUDGING AMY (TVPG): - WILD CARD	BIG STORY WEEKEND EDITION	13:00
13:30		ARMY NEWSWATCH	MALCOLM IN THE MIDDLE (TVPG):			13:30
14:00		NHL - DALLAS STARS @ VANCOUVER CANUCKS	EVERYBODY LOVES RAYMOND (TVPG): - THE KICKER	RED PLANET	CNN PRESENTS	14:00
14:30			THE KING OF QUEENS (TVPG): - INNER TUBE			14:30
15:00	SPORTSCENTER		JOAN OF ARCADIA (TVPG): - PILOT		FOX & FRIENDS	15:00
16:00	MOTORCYCLE RACING - THQ WORLD SUPERCROSS GP (125CC) INDIANAPOLIS		AMERICAN IDOL (TVG):	HEADLINE NEWS	FOX & FRIENDS	16:00
16:30		ESPNEWS		SEINFELD (TV14): - THE MANGO		16:30
17:00	MOTORCYCLE RACING - THQ WORLD SUPERCROSS GP (250CC) INDIANAPOLIS	WWE SMACKDOWN! (TV14):		MEET THE PRESS	CBS NEWS SUNDAY MORNING	17:00
18:00	THE SPORTS REPORTERS	STARGATE SG-1 (TVPG): - SHADOW PLAY	AMERICAN IDOL (TVG):	AMERICA'S BLACK FORUM		18:00
18:30	SPORTSCENTER		THE TWILIGHT ZONE (TVPG): - THE OBSOLETE MAN	ENTERTAINMENT TONIGHT (TVPG):	FACE THE NATION	18:30
19:00		ESPNEWS	SWAMP CRITTERS OF THE LOST LAGOON (TVG): - BALLAD OF COUNTRY WESTON		HEADLINE NEWS	19:00
19:30		ESPNEWS	HARVEST WITH GREG LAURIE - DISQUALIFIED IN THE RACE OF LIFE--SAUL	ESPNEWS	NAVY/MARINE CORPS NEWS	19:30
20:00	COLLEGE GAMENIGHT	GLORY IN BLACK & WHITE	MUSIC AND THE SPOKEN WORD	WOMEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL - NCAA CHAMPIONSHIP - SWEET 16: LOUISIANA TECH VS DUKE	LATE EDITION W/ WOLF BLITZER	20:00
20:30	NBA FASTBREAK		REAL VIDEOS (TVG): - TRIN-I-TE 5:7			20:30
21:00	NASCAR NEXTEL CUP SERIES - FOOD CITY 500		THE SIMPSONS (TVPG): - PRAY ANYTHING			21:00
21:30		ROAD TO THE FINAL FOUR	MALCOLM IN THE MIDDLE (TVPG):			21:30
22:00			EVERYBODY LOVES RAYMOND (TVPG): - THE KICKER	ESPNEWS	FOX NEWS LIVE	22:00
22:30		MEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL - NCAA CHAMPIONSHIP - ELITE 8	THE KING OF QUEENS (TVPG): - INNER TUBE	MEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL - NCAA CHAMPIONSHIP - ELITE 8		22:30
23:00			JOAN OF ARCADIA (TVPG): - PILOT		FOX NEWS LIVE	23:00